

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02242 221024Z

41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 IO-14 (ISO) W

----- 002758

R 220937Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0605

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SINGAPORE REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF
MALAYSIA/PRC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. GOS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ESTABLISH-
MENT MALAYSIA/PRC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TOOK
THE FORM OF FOLLOWING CAREFULLY-WORDED STATE-
MENT BY MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)
SPOKESMAN. "THIS INITIATIVE BY MALAYSIA AND
THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS WILL INFLUENCE THE
RESPONSE OF OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES. FAVORABLE
DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EASE THE WAY TOWARDS
NORMALIZATION OF TIES BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE
PRC".

2. MFA SPOKESMAN CHARACTERIZED NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN PRC AND "FIRST OF THE ASEAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02242 221024Z

COUNTRIES" AS "SIGNIFICANT STEP" AND NOTED THAT,

"AFTER THE EXCHANGE OF THE UNITED STATES AND PRC LIAISON OFFICES, FOLLOWED BY DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND, IT IS ONLY NATURAL FOR OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION TO MOVE IN THIS SAME DIRECTION. MANY OF THE INHIBITIONS, BOTH IDEOLOGICAL AND RACIAL, ARISING DURING THE OLD COLD WAR PERIOD ARE BEING SHAKEN OFF IN THE FACE OF NEW REALITIES."

3. CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS HAS NOT PLAYED UP ANNOUNCEMENT. STORY HAS BEEN CARRIED IN EACH CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER AS LEAD ARTICLE ON INSIDE PAGE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR MALAYSIAN AFFAIRS. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL IN EITHER NEWSPAPER.

4. CAUTIOUS TONE OF MFA STATEMENT HAS BEEN ECHOED BY EDITORIALS IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS. STRAITS TIMES EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT "THE CHINA-MALAYSIA RELATIONSHIP IS A TEST CASE, AND WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED BY OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS BY THE WIDER ASIAN COMMUNITY." EDITORIAL ALSO STATED THAT REAL TEST WILL COME IN IMPACT ON MALAYSIAN TERRORISTS OF PEKING'S PRESENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR. NEW NATION, WHILE NOTING PROBLEM OF PEKING SUPPORT OF COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES, ALSO QUESTIONS "WHAT AGREEMENT HAVE THE MALAYSIANS AND THE CHINESE COME TO REGARDING PEKING'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATELESS CHINESE IN MALAYSIA?" EDITORIAL STATES THESE TWO PROBLEMS MUST BE UPPERMOST IN MINDS OF OTHER ASEAN LEADERS," . . . SINCE ALL FOUR STATES HAVE A COMMUNIST UNDERGROUND AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF STATELESS CHINESE AMONG THEIR POPULATION."

5. COMMENT: FOR DOMESTIC REASONS, MFA'S CAUTIOUSLY WORDED STATEMENT IS COUCHED IN SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE TERMS THAN GOS WOULD PROBABLY EXPRESS IN PRIVATE. GOS IS FRANKLY SKEPTICAL WHETHER PRC HAS REALLY ABANDONED LONG RANGE IDEOLOGICAL GOALS AND IS CONCERNED THAT AFTER SHORT PERIOD OF CIRCUMSPECT BEHAVIOR PRC WILL ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE THEM THROUGH PROPAGANDA AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02242 221024Z

SUBVERSION.
CRONK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SINGAP02242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740128-0344
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740526/aaaaawzo.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF MALAYSIA/PRC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005